

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

May 2016

STAFF:

PHILLIP D. MCCARTHY, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
CRAIG NALE, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

MEMBERS:

SEN. BRIAN D. LANGLEY, CHAIR
SEN. PETER E. EDGECOMB
SEN. REBECCA J. MILLETT

REP. VICTORIA P. KORNFELD, CHAIR
REP. MATTHEA E. LARSEN DAUGHTRY
REP. BRIAN L. HUBBELL
REP. RICHARD R. FARNSWORTH
REP. RYAN D. TIPPING-SPITZ
REP. TERESA S. PIERCE
REP. JOYCE A. MAKER
REP. MICHAEL D. MCCLELLAN
REP. MATTHEW G. POULIOT
REP. PAUL A. STEARNS

STATE OF MAINE

127TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the Second Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or PASSAGE..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is July 29, 2016. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

personnel certification rules and report by January 7, 2017 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The committee is authorized to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

LD 1469 An Act To Promote Private Fund-raising for the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

PUBLIC 383

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BREEN C PIERCE T	OTP	

This bill requires the Executive Director of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to designate a nonprofit organization as the private support organization for the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to organize and foster support for the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and its programs.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 383 requires the Executive Director of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to designate a nonprofit organization as the private support organization for the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to organize and foster support for the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf and its programs.

LD 1475 An Act To Facilitate the Use of State Education Subsidies

**PUBLIC 463
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLETT R MAKER J	OTP-AM	S-388

This bill authorizes a regional school unit to include an article in the warrant for its annual budget meeting providing that, in the event that the regional school unit receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, the regional school unit board is authorized to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the regional school unit board, without a special budget meeting and budget validation referendum.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-388)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The bill authorizes a regional school unit to include an article in the warrant for its annual budget meeting providing that, in the event that the regional school unit receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, the regional school unit board is authorized to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the regional school unit board, without a special budget meeting and budget validation referendum. The amendment retains that provision and allows a regional school unit to include such articles for the purposes of increasing the allocation of finances in a reserve fund and decreasing the local cost share expectation for local property taxpayers for funding public education.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 463 authorizes a regional school unit to include an article in the warrant for its annual budget meeting providing that, in the event that the regional school unit receives more state education subsidy than

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

the amount included in its budget, the regional school unit board is authorized to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the regional school unit board, without a special budget meeting and budget validation referendum. The law also allows a regional school unit to include such articles for the purposes of increasing the allocation of finances in a reserve fund and decreasing the local cost share expectation for local property taxpayers for funding public education.

Public Law 2015, chapter 463 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 13, 2016.

LD 1489 An Act To Clarify Expenditures Regarding Androscoggin County

Veto Sustained

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROTUNDO M	OTP-AM	H-551

This bill clarifies the provisions enacted in Public Law 2015, chapter 267 which amended the education funding formula statute to require the Commissioner of Education to disburse \$75,000 over each of the fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 for postsecondary education attainment in Androscoggin County; the intent of this disbursement was to provide funding to College for ME - Androscoggin to provide financial assistance for individuals in Androscoggin County who wanted to attend college or obtain a postsecondary degree. Because College for ME - Androscoggin was not specifically named in the amended statute, the funds were not disbursed.

The bill repeals the statute requiring the Commissioner of Education to disburse the funds and instead requires the State Controller to disburse \$75,000 to College for ME - Androscoggin in each of the fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17. The funds are appropriated from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools Program General Fund account to be used to support individuals aspiring to attend college and support postsecondary degree attainment initiatives in Androscoggin County.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-551)

This amendment strikes from the bill the provision regarding the proposed disbursement of funds in fiscal year 2015-16 to College for ME - Androscoggin and amends the provision regarding the proposed disbursement of funds in fiscal year 2016-17 to College for ME - Androscoggin to require the State Controller to pay \$75,000 from unobligated funds carried forward from fiscal year 2015-16 to fiscal year 2016-17 in the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account.

This amendment also removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the bill.

LD 1490 An Act Regarding the Maine Arts Commission

PUBLIC 379

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCCLELLAN M LANGLEY B	OTP	

This bill removes language in current law that requires the Treasurer of State to invest funds given as an endowment for the Maine Arts Commission. It allows the Maine Arts Commission to administer its endowment fund.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2016, chapter 379 repeals language in current law that requires the Treasurer of State to invest funds given as an endowment for the Maine Arts Commission and allows the Maine Arts Commission to administer its endowment fund.